



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
November 2004

Test Preparation

The assessment office at the Office of Public Instruction has received calls from principals requesting recommendations for tests to prepare their students for the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). The OPI does not recommend nor encourage additional testing to prepare for the CRT. That is a district/school decision.

Released items from the 2004 CRT are online. Two power point presentations online can assist in preparing your students for the CRT.

1. *Preparing for the CRT-Constructed Response Items:* This power point accompanied the video conference of November 2003. The video is available from the OPI Resource Center. Contact Raelen Williard to make arrangements, 406-444-2082 or rwilliard@state.mt.us.
➤ <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/CRTppt.pdf>
2. *Assessment Results and the Classroom:* this power point accompanied the MEA-MFT conference presentation.
➤ <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/04releaseditemsvFFbw.pdf>

In addition, the OPI will offer workshops on the use of the released items in preparation for spring 2005 testing. These workshops will be held during January at ten sites across the state.

Although many companies produce tests, the Montana CRT is unique to Montana and not available for purchase. However, items from the Montana 2004 CRT are released and online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/crt.html>.

Workshops in Preparation for the 2005 Criterion- Referenced Test

In January 2005, the Office of Public Instruction will provide workshops for teachers in the use of released items, item statistics through iAnalyze, and models for constructed response items. Two workshops are



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scheduled for each of the five Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) regions. A map of CSPD regions is online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/CSPD/Index.html#region>

If your school or district would like to host a workshop by providing the facility, please contact Clare Bridge, cbridge@state.mt.us or 406-444-4431 for details. We are looking forward to working with you on this project.



Bar Codes for Demographic Data on Criterion-Referenced Tests

Bar codes will be used for student demographic information on the 2005 CRT and CRT-Alternate. Instead of bubbling demographic information after students have taken the test in the spring, all systems will receive and use bar codes with demographic data for each student. Districts/schools will attach the bar code label to each student's answer booklet.

All schools will provide Measured Progress with data online in advance of the testing window so that Measured Progress can prepare and provide the labels. The window for entering the information is **December 8, 2004 - January 7, 2005.**

Memos with secure passwords will be mailed to system test coordinators on December 1. Bar code labels will be generated from the submitted databases

and shipped with test materials in mid-February. Systems may add new students and print new barcode labels onsite up to the first day of testing using this secure site. Blank bar code labels and directions will be provided to all system test coordinators.

Students who are eligible to take the CRT-Alternate will not be included in this registration; rather there is a separate registration for them.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update

The Office of Public Instruction has mailed proposed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations to schools and districts whose AYP is determined through the Calculated Process. Please see the table that follows this update for the AYP timeline.

◆ Calculated Process

For schools and districts to be included in the Calculated Process, the minimum number of students ("n") is 30 for the All Students group. In schools or districts with the "n" of 30 or more, no AYP determination is made for a subgroup with less than 40 students. This minimum number is based on whatever tested grades are in a particular school or district. For example, in a K-6 elementary school, only 4th grade would constitute the "n." In a K-8 elementary district, 4th and 8th grades would be included. In a K-12 district, 4th, 8th, and 10th grades would be included in determining the "n." These configurations are according to school codes for schools and legal entities for districts as they are shown in the *Directory of Montana Schools*.

◆ Starting Points

The starting points for the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) are 40% of students proficient or above in Math and 55% of students proficient or above in Reading. A 95% confidence interval was applied to each percentage of students achieving proficient and above.

◆ Confidence Intervals

- In statistics, a confidence interval is used to judge the confidence with which a decision can be made based on a set of data. Many people are familiar with the concept of confidence intervals as applied to polling results.
- A confidence interval is a range of values around which one can be reasonably confident (95% for Montana AYP calculations) that a true score lies. Variation is greater for smaller groups of students

than it is for larger groups. As a result, the confidence interval (range) is larger for smaller groups of students than it is for larger groups of students.

- Confidence intervals were used in the calculation of the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) to account for student groups of different sizes and the margin of error associated with any one sample. As a result of applying a confidence interval, the percentage of students achieving proficiency may be below the AMO, but the school may still meet AYP. Whether this occurs will depend on the size of the group and how close the school came to achieving the AMO.
- Variation in group size and application of a confidence interval is the likely reason your AYP (accountability) proficiency percentages may differ from your reported results from Measured Progress. The Measured Progress results were calculated without a confidence interval.
- For a detailed explanation of confidence interval methodologies, see <http://www.ruraledu.org/docs/nclb/coladarci.pdf>

◆ Participation Rate

The participation rate threshold in both Math and Reading is 95% except that in any school or district with less than 40 students, actual enrollment minus two is a passing rate, regardless of the percentage.

◆ Additional Academic Indicators

The additional academic indicator for K-8 schools and districts is attendance rate with a threshold of 80% or progress toward the 80%. The additional academic indicator for 9-12 schools and districts is graduation rate with a threshold of 80% or progress toward the 80%.

◆ Safe Harbor

The Safe Harbor mechanism could not be employed in 2004 due to the change from MontCAS Phase 1 (the norm-referenced Iowa Tests) to MontCAS Phase 2 (the criterion-referenced Measured Progress test).

◆ Identification for Improvement

For a school or district to be identified for improvement, it must miss AYP in the same subject or same indicator for two consecutive years. For a school or district to be removed from improvement status, it must make AYP in the same subject or same indicator for two consecutive years.

◆ Small Schools Process (SSP)

All schools and districts with less than 30 students in the All Students group will be reviewed in the Small Schools Process (SSP).

Anticipated AYP Timeline (Reprint from October *JUMP*)

October 20, 2004	The Office of Public Instruction Special Education Division will email exception request form to districts that may need (qualify for) an exception to the 1% rule. NOTE: Only eleven districts may need an exception.
October 29, 2004	Deadline for the eleven districts to return the exception request form to the Office of Public Instruction.
November 15, 2004	The Office of Public Instruction will send proposed AYP determinations to schools in the calculated process.
November 18-19, 2004	Small schools process review team meets.
December 3, 2004	The Office of Public Instruction will send proposed AYP determinations for schools in the small schools process.
December 7, 2004	Deadline for districts/schools to submit evidence in an appeal of the AYP proposed determination in the calculated process.
December 23, 2004	Deadline for districts/schools to submit evidence in an appeal of the AYP proposed determination in the small schools process.
January 14, 2005	The Office of Public Instruction will send final AYP determination for calculated and small schools process.

Testing Windows for Spring 2005 (Reprint from October *JUMP*)

MontCAS, Phase 2: Criterion-Referenced Test Alternate	February 14 - March 30, 2005	Students with significant cognitive delays in grades 4, 8, and 10	Reading and math
MontCAS, Phase 2: Criterion-Referenced Test	March 7 - March 30, 2005	Grades 4, 8, 10	Reading and math
MontCAS, Phase 1: Norm-Referenced Test (the Iowa Tests) and Alternate	March 23 - April 13, 2005	Grades 4, 8, 11	Reading, language arts, math, social studies, science

TENTATIVE Criterion-Referenced Test Testing Windows for Spring 2006, 2007, and 2008

Year	Criterion-Referenced Test	Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate	Grades	Subjects
2006	March 6 - March 29, 2006	Feb. 13 - March 29, 2006	3-8 and 10	Reading and Math
2007	March 5 - March 28, 2007	Feb. 12 - March 28, 2007	3-8 and 10	Reading and Math
2008	March 3 - March 26, 2008	Feb. 11 - March 26, 2008	3-8 and 10	Reading and Math
2008	March 3 - March 26, 2008	Feb. 11 - March 26, 2008	4, 8, and 10	Science

November 16 Video Conference

Thank you for your questions and attendance at the video broadcast of the *Questions and Answers about the 2004 Criterion-Referenced Test Results*. Despite some technical delays, the major questions about the standard setting process and the grade four math cut scores were discussed.

Panelists asking questions were Brian Hilton, Ennis Public Schools; Carol Wicker, Billings Public Schools; and Bruce Messinger, Helena Public Schools.

The discussants were Madalyn Quinlan of the Office of Public Instruction; Carolyn Haug, Measured Progress; and Stanley Rabinowitz, a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Carolyn and Stanley are psychometricians, statisticians with expertise in assessment.

Our thanks to the panelists for sharing their expertise and for fitting this broadcast into their very busy schedules.

Below is information on video tapes, the online video stream, and notes from the broadcast.

- Video tapes of the conference are available. Please contact Raelen Williard at the Office of Public Instruction Resource Center to make arrangements, 406-444-2082 or rwilliard@state.mt.us.
- A video stream of the broadcast is online at http://www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/CRT/CRT_Q&A/
- The questions and answers are being transcribed into print form. When they are complete, emails will be sent with access information.

Please Return Video Tapes

Several video tapes of past OPI Assessment broadcasts are still out. Most tapes are checked out for five days and may be copied. If you have a video tape from a broadcast prior to November 2004, please return it to the OPI Resource Center, P. O. Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501. Thank you.

CRT-Alternate Registration

Registration for the CRT-Alternate has now closed until January. During the January 2005 window, please register any students who have been identified to take the CRT-Alternate since the October window closed. These students should not be included in the December registration for the CRT. The January registration dates will be posted in December.



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